

Creating Environmental Stewardship: Evidence from an Adult Environmental Education Program

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George Mason University

Neighborhood Ecological Stewardship Training (NEST)

An exciting adult natural resources program



What is NEST?



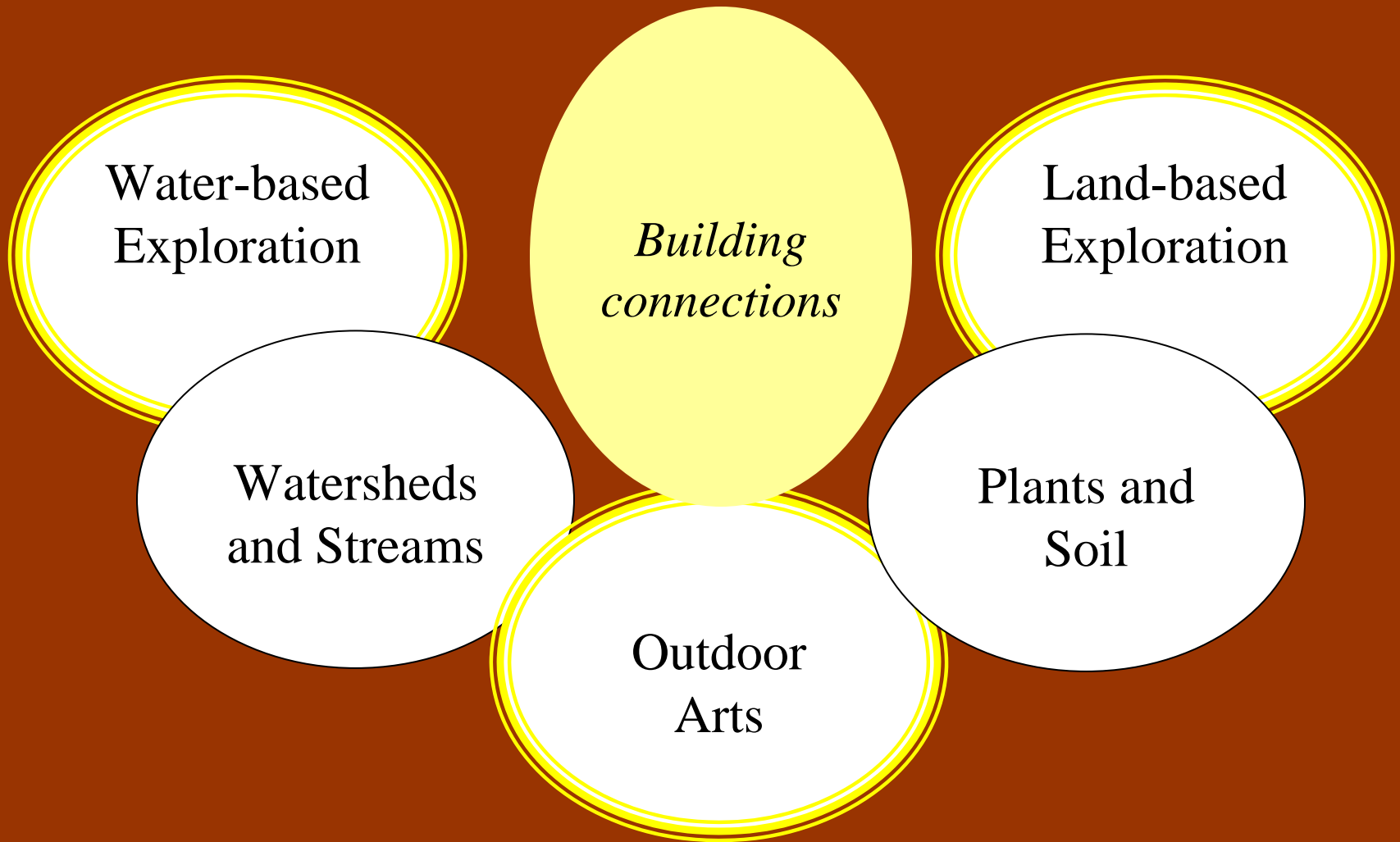
Series of hands-on
workshops and outings

2006 Program Summary

- More than 250 participants
- More than 150 NEST workshops/sessions
- More than 40 partners
- Free for participants
- Basis for GMU dissertation



NEST Framework



- Watersheds and Streams -



- Watersheds and Streams -



- Soil and Plants -



Land-based Exploration



Land-based Exploration



Land-based Exploration



Water-based Exploration



Water-based Exploration



Water-based Exploration



Outdoor Arts



Outdoor Arts



Outdoor Arts



Community Building



NEST Framework - Utilizing & Developing Programs



NEST Framework - Connecting Existing Programs





Neighborhood Ecological Stewardship Training (NEST)

Explore Your NEST!

An Exciting Free Adult Natural Resources Program

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Partner Highlights



Partners

<u>Adventure Links</u>	<u>Friends of Little Rocky Run</u>
<u>Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay</u>	<u>George Mason University's Hemlock Overlook</u>
<u>Arlington County</u>	<u>Center for Outdoor Education</u>
<u>Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE)</u>	<u>Greensprings Master Gardeners Program</u>
<u>Audubon at Home in Northern Virginia, sponsored by The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia</u>	<u>Institute for Nature and Leadership</u>
<u>Audubon Naturalist Society</u>	<u>Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin</u>
<u>Bat World NOVA</u>	<u>Lands and Waters</u>
<u>Centreville Dogs</u>	<u>National Wildlife Federation</u>
<u>Chesapeake Club</u>	<u>Northern Virginia Conservation Trust</u>
<u>City of Alexandria</u>	<u>Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority</u>
<u>City of Fairfax</u>	<u>Patagonia</u>
<u>Clean Fairfax Council</u>	<u>Potomac Conservancy</u>
<u>Earth Sangha</u>	<u>Potomac Paddlesports</u>
<u>Eco-Stewards Alliance</u>	<u>REI</u>
<u>Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services</u>	<u>Reston Association</u>
<u>Fairfax County Park Authority</u>	<u>Virginia Cooperative Extension</u>
<u>Fairfax Master Gardeners Program</u>	<u>Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation</u>
<u>For the Love of Children Outdoor Education Center</u>	<u>Virginia Department of Forestry</u>
	<u>Virginia Native Plants Society, Potowmack Chapter</u>
	<u>Virginia Save Our Streams</u>
	<u>Virginia Department of Environmental Quality</u>
	<u>Wazo LLC : Mission Driven Technology</u>

Home - NEST Survey - Summer - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.exploreyournest.org/surveyjune/default.aspx

Google

Go

Bookmarks

1054 blocked

Check

AutoLink

AutoFill

Send to

Settings

Home - NEST Survey - Summer

Up to NEST Collaboration Site

Home Documents and Lists Create Site Settings Help

NEST Survey - Summer

Home

Documents

Pictures

Lists

Discussions

Surveys

I. Introduction Questions

II. Attitude Questions

III. Knowledge Questions

IV. Behavior Questions

V. Questions for Statistical Purposes

VI. NEST Impacts

GMU Consent Form

Thanks for participating in my project!

Announcements


PLEASE READ & FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS 6/11/2006 11:19 PM
by Joanna Cornell
I know - we all hate following directions and prefer to just begin - but this can be confusing if you try to figure it out on your own. I recommend that you print the directions to use as a reference.
Please follow the provided directions.

Is the font too small? Not sure how to start? 6/11/2006 11:18 PM
by Joanna Cornell
See the directions for more information.
Directions were emailed to you as a pdf with your survey code.

The survey is divided into 6 parts - you do not need to complete the survey in one sitting.

[Add new announcement](#)

Site Development and Hosting provided by [WazoLLC](#) as a part of their mission driven technology partnership.

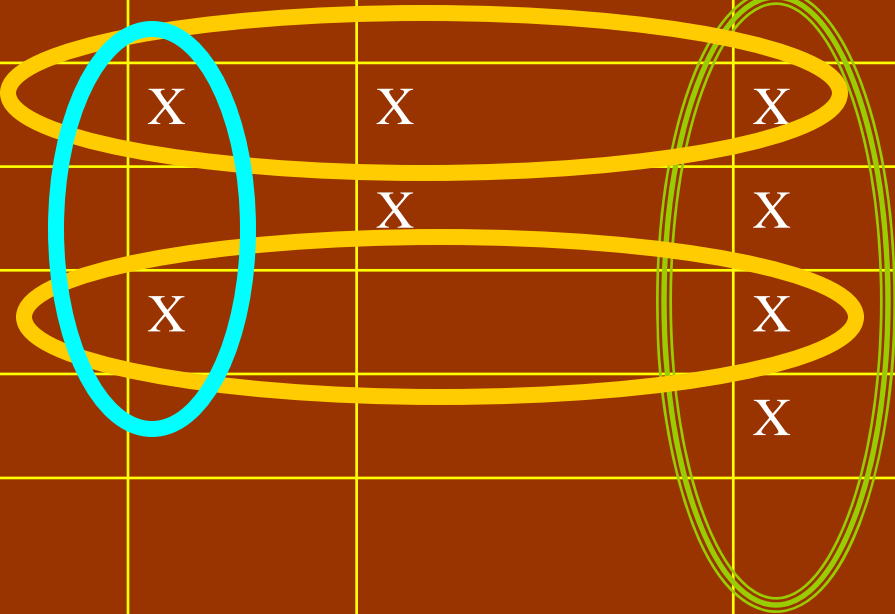


NEST Survey: Environmental Attitudes, Knowledge and Behaviors

Solomon-Four Group Design

Minimizes threats to internal and external validity as well as maximizes reliability.

Group Number and Common Name of Group	Pre-test survey	Participation in NEST	Post- survey
Group 1: Experimental	X	X	X
Group 2: Experimental		X	X
Group 3: Control	X		X
Group 4: Control			X



Study Participant Overview

- 213 participants
- 18 - 83, median age of 48
- 70 % female
- 41 % of participants had not participated in any environmental programs in the past year
- 79 % do not work for an organization or agency whose main focus is on the environment
- 72 % have lived in the region for > 10 years

Research Questions

Can an experiential environmental education program have a significant impact on adult environmental knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors?

YES!

Highlights of Survey Results



NEST's Impact on Knowledge

- Significant difference in knowledge factors

People learned stuff!

NEST's Impacts on Attitudes

Successful in...

- Connecting people to local places
- Connecting people to environmental and educational communities
- Building the understanding that people both impact their environment and can make a positive difference with their actions
- Building the understanding that people (as individuals) and their cumulative neighborhood actions affect local environments.

NEST's Impact on Behaviors

Significantly Increased:

- (a) having enough information about how to change behaviors to have less of an environmental impact than the average American,
- (b) environmental involvement rating,
- (c) time spent on environmental actions.

NEST's Impact on Behaviors

Individual behaviors:

- composting,
- reducing the amount of garbage generated,
- recycling inconvenient items,
- planning to do a soil test,
- fertilizing at appropriate times.

And participating in other
adult environmental programs.

Future of NEST

www.exploreyournest.org



NEST at GMU: Model Framework

